

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 10, 2008

The Honorable David R. Obey  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-218 Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey & Ranking Member Lewis:

As Members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, we are writing to express our strong support for the inclusion of H.R. 5613, the "Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008," in its entirety, in the supplemental appropriations legislation. H.R. 5613 places a one-year moratorium on seven Medicaid regulations that would have devastating consequences for the health care safety net, with implications for states, providers, and beneficiaries. Moratoria on these regulations will allow Congress to adequately assess and respond to the effects the harmful regulations will have on Medicaid patients.

We would like to reiterate the importance of placing a moratorium on all seven regulations, rather than only a selected few. H.R. 5613 has the strong support of our colleagues, as it passed the House by a veto-proof margin and was included in an amendment adopted in the supplemental appropriations bill. We believe that all seven Medicaid regulations represent significant changes in Medicaid policy that should only be done in consultation with Congress, the states, and impacted providers of services. The Administration promulgated these regulations without the input of any of these stakeholders. In addition, all seven of these regulations would result in billions of dollars in Medicaid cuts to states and to hospitals, clinics and other providers who take care of the individuals with mental illness, individuals with disabilities, and children. At a time when the U.S. economy is in a downturn and states will be ill-equipped to absorb the burden, allowing such cuts to impact individuals who receive these services is unconscionable.

We strongly urge you to retain the moratoria all seven Medicaid regulations in the supplemental appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



Hilda Solis  
Member of Congress



Tom Allen  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Tammy Baldwin  
Member of Congress



Rick Boucher  
Member of Congress



Lois Capps  
Member of Congress



Eliot Engel  
Member of Congress



Charles Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



Gene Green  
Member of Congress



Baron Hill  
Member of Congress



Jay Inslee  
Member of Congress



Jim Matheson  
Member of Congress



Charlie Melancon  
Member of Congress



John Barrow  
Member of Congress



G. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress



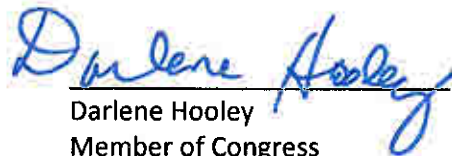
Anna Eshoo  
Member of Congress



Bart Gordon  
Member of Congress



Jane Harman  
Member of Congress



Darlene Hooley  
Member of Congress



Ed Markey  
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



Mike Ross  
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Bobby Rush in blue ink.

Bobby Rush  
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Bart Stupak in blue ink.

Bart Stupak  
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Anthony Weiner in blue ink.

Anthony Weiner  
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Ed Towns in blue ink.

Ed Towns  
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Henry Waxman in blue ink.

Henry Waxman  
Member of Congress